



We Make Camden: State of the Borough 2026

About this report

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ambitions

How to navigate the document

Best viewing experience

This document is best viewed downloaded on a laptop or desktop computer. The interactivity will not work as well on tablets, iPads and mobile phones. You will still be able to view, scroll through and use some functionality such as hyperlinks, however the main navigation buttons on the right may be less effective.

Right hand navigation

The buttons on the right hand side take you to the different sections of the document. The 6 ambition sections each have their own contents for you to jump to a particular area with ease. Simply click on the button on the right to take you back to that section's contents. All other sections do not have a contents page.

Endnotes

Example:

In Camden in 2022, there were 6,389 children or 1 in 5 (19.8%) living in poverty, up from 13.5% in 2021.¹

To go to the reference of a particular Endnote, click on the number at the end of the paragraph.

Click on the number in the Endnotes to take you back to the page which the reference number is on.

Example:

- 1 Proportion of children living in low income households (60% of median income) before and after housing costs, Local indicators of child poverty, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University for End Child Poverty (2022); Children in low income families: local area statistics, DWP (2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022>, https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Local_indicators_of_child_poverty_after_housing_costs_2021_22/23523453.

Text which is in blue and underlined is an active link. This example is a URL hyperlink which will take you to a webpage. Others may open up another document or activate an email programme.

Comparison group: throughout the report, we have referred to the 'Comparison group' for simplification.

This group consists of the inner London boroughs and neighbouring boroughs to Camden: Barnet, Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, Islington, Southwark, Newham, Hackney, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, City of London, Greenwich, Haringey, and Lewisham. We also compare to the London and England averages where possible.

List of chart and images
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About this report

Camden's State of the Borough report is published annually. It brings together data and evidence from quantitative and qualitative sources, and includes national level statistics, regional data, and locally collected data. It provides a **shared evidence base about the outcomes experienced by people in Camden**, and is intended for organisations, residents and the council to increase the understanding of people's wellbeing in the borough. It is aligned to the structure of the [We Make Camden](#) vision for the borough, and uses the [Good Life Camden](#) framework to identify relevant data.

A note on timings: The 2026 report is published earlier than in previous years due to the local elections in May 2026. Due to the shorter timeline for producing the report, we did not include data that was not updated since the last report at the time of drafting.


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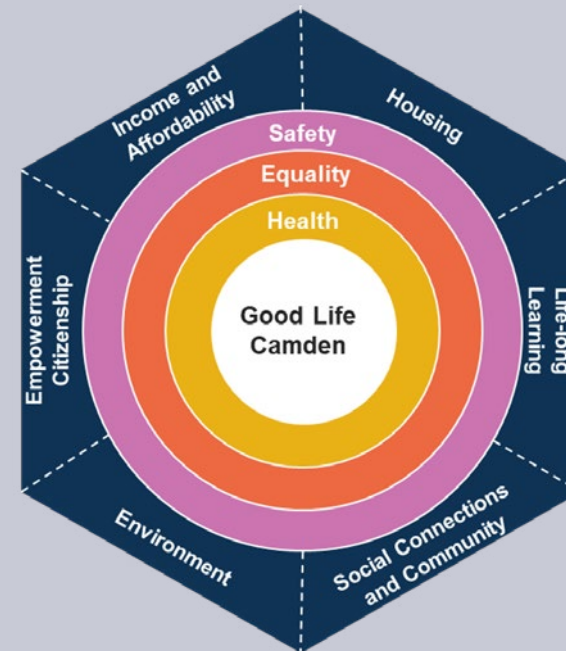
Good Life Camden

The report focuses on the outcomes that are important for living a good life in Camden, based on the co-created [Good Life Camden](#) (GLC) framework. The GLC framework was developed with residents and staff in 2022. It breaks down the concept of living a good life into nine **themes**, which people told us are most important. These are: Safety, Equality, Health, Housing, Income and Affordability, Lifelong Learning, Social Connections and Community, and Environment. The themes of Safety, Health and Housing are identified as core cross-cutting themes. The framework also spells out the **signals** that tell us if we're making progress against the different GLC themes (e.g. for Housing, a signal is that the quality of housing is high). The signals are underpinned by **measures**, which use data from a range of sources, such as official statistics or administrative data from schools, hospitals and transport.

In pulling together the data and evidence for the report, we started from the framework and looked for quantitative data that was available, preferably comparable across place and time. Mapping to the GLC framework also showed us where we have data gaps, whether for signals and measures (e.g. people feel safe in Camden) or in the breakdowns of averages (e.g. what is the experience of specific populations, like perceptions of safety of adults with learning disabilities).

Throughout the report, we have highlighted the relevant Good Life Camden signals where the data is presented.

Look out for these  **throughout the report, presenting the relevant Good Life Camden signal in each section.**



Quantitative data

We have collated quantitative data mostly from trusted secondary sources, in order to allow a comparison across place (other boroughs, London, and nationally) and time (from 2010 where available). This helps us see whether what people in Camden experience is substantially different compared to previous years and to other places. Where possible we have also included breakdowns to smaller groups, such as ward level data, or ethnic groups. We have also considered the confidence levels and statistical significance where these were available and relevant. The data used in the report is available at [Open Data Camden](#) in spreadsheets which include the metadata and links to the sources.

Comparison group: throughout the report, we have referred to the 'inner London' for simplification. This group was selected based on demographic and geographic similarities, and consists of the inner London boroughs and neighbouring boroughs to Camden: Barnet, Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, Islington, Southwark, Newham, Hackney, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, City of London, Greenwich, Haringey, and Lewisham. We also compare to the London and England averages where possible.

Qualitative data

The qualitative data collected for the State of the Borough (SOTB) report was used to supplement quantitative insights and ensure that residents' lived experiences were meaningfully represented. To gather **primary data**, we worked with several voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations and services across the Council that maintain strong connections with residents and communities. We also collaborated

with a resident peer researcher who supported our data collection efforts. Depending on the nature of the event or setting, we tailored our methods of engagement, which included focus groups and one-to-one informal conversations at community festivals, local events, and other resident gatherings. Our aim was to diversify both *who* we heard from and *how* we gathered insights, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility in our approach.

Throughout this report, we have included demographic details alongside resident quotes to help contextualise lived experiences and ensure that a broad range of voices is represented. Providing demographic information was optional during engagement activities, and some residents chose not to share these details. As a result, demographic data is not available for every quote included in the report. Where residents did provide this information, we have noted age, gender, and the setting or event where the insight was gathered (for example, a focus group, community festival, or local engagement session). Where contributors did not provide demographic details for a particular question, this is shown as "NA".

We are grateful to the residents who generously shared their experiences, to the peer researcher and organisations who helped us reach and engage with communities across Camden. Their contributions helped make this report richer and better reflect the diversity of perspectives and experiences.

Alongside our primary data collection, we also collated **secondary data** by reaching out to services across Camden Council and asking them to share any relevant research, consultation or engagement data they had previously conducted. This included existing consultations, focus groups and surveys carried out over the past two years, as well as ongoing projects still in progress. Each submission was reviewed, and we extracted insights that were relevant and relatable to specific SOTB chapters.

Evidence shared by organisations

While most of the data used in this report is from mainstream secondary sources, such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Greater London Authority and government departments, we recognise that our local organisations have a lot of accumulated knowledge and evidence about the experience of people in the borough. We want to ensure the voices of Camden residents are central to our understanding of the borough.

In August 2025, we invited partner organisations to contribute data they had collected on outcomes experienced by people in the borough. We have represented the data and reports that were shared with us throughout the report in 'learning from' sections. We are very grateful to the following organisations which have shared with us: [Cooperation Town](#), [The Caversham Group Practice](#), [Old Diorama Arts Centre](#), [Camden Carers](#), [Camden Giving](#), [Feast With Us](#), [Community Association for West Hampstead](#) and [British Land](#). **Look out for 'learning from' sections in this report.**

Figure 0.1: Map of organisations contributing to data collection across the borough



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camden.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-report



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